

Best U.S. Surveillance System Reported Moving to Middle East

By JACK GOULD

The United States is planning to use its most advanced aerial reconnaissance system to monitor continuously the cease-fire in the Middle East.

This system would make it possible for pictures of the Suez Canal zone to be on President Nixon's desk in a matter of minutes after a U-2 plane flew over the disputed area, took photographs on either side of the contested waterway and landed next to a building electronically linked by satellite to the Pentagon.

The transmitting device of the system, known as Compass Link, reportedly is being moved from Southeast Asia to an un-

specified base in the Middle East.

The device is a self-contained portable unit that processes the film brought back by a pilot, changes the images into electronic impulses and beams the information to the nearest available satellite.

The complete unit — including a small, light building with a dish-shaped antenna on its roof — can be transported anywhere by plane or easily dropped on the deck of a ship.

There is only one Compass Link system and it was understood that Washington believed accurate data from the Middle

East were more important at the moment than maintenance of the circuit to Southeast Asia where other surveillance systems are available.

The application of Compass Link to the Suez Canal situation has raised interest among some members of Congress, who believe that the system should be made available to the United Nations as a new and efficient means of checking boundary difficulties between countries.

For over a year Compass Link has been in hourly use between the transmitting unit in South Vietnam and a companion receiving unit outside Washington. The complete system conquers the time lag of earlier surveillance methods that has contributed to the tensions and recriminations between Egypt and Israel.

Under older systems of reconnaissance, whether by aircraft or Samos satellites, the chief problem has been delivery of pictorial data. In the hours necessary to ship film to the Pentagon, even by the fastest military jet, the pictures may be of scant value because of possible movement of military installations or troops in the interval.

While under combat conditions reconnaissance pictures are analyzed and interpreted by a team of specialists, the chief analyst in such work noted, the Middle East situation involves

delicate diplomacy and Washington presumably would want to make its own evaluation rather than rely on field reports. The speed and fidelity of reconnaissance pictures, he added, assume further importance when such pictures themselves may be challenged by other countries, as has happened since the cease-fire.

Jurisdiction Was Shifted

The Compass Link system was conceived by John Manniello, vice president in charge of government operations for the Columbia Broadcasting System Laboratories of Stamford, Conn. It was built for the Air Force Systems Command in Southeast Asia.

In the July 31 issue of Intercom, publication of the Air Force Communications Service it was reported that the Air Force Systems Command had turned over Compass Link to the communications service. The procedural step had significance because the Air Force Communications Service has global responsibilities beyond the war in Southeast Asia.

The Department of Defense lifted secrecy about the essentials of the system more than a year ago. When the reconnaissance plane taxis up to the processing unit parked on an American air base the pilo-

hands out the cartridge of pictures taken by sensitive oblique cameras during his mission. At a height of seven miles the airborne cameras can pick up extraordinary detail on the ground.

By means of a laser beam scanning unit, each tiny variation in light, which constitutes the contrast and composition of

a picture, is converted in a few micro-seconds into an electronic impulse. These impulses are further encoded to thwart eavesdropping and then beamed skyward to a satellite. One or more satellites of the Department of Defense may be employed to reach Washington from the remotest point of the globe.

WASHINGTON POST

DATE 20 Aug 70

PAGE 1

U.S. Calls Evidence Inconclusive

By A. D. Horne
Washington Post Staff Writer

The United States announced yesterday that it lacked "conclusive" evidence of its own to support Israel's charges that Egypt moved up anti-aircraft missiles after the Suez Canal cease-fire began.

In a statement designed to close the books on the issue, State Department spokesman Robert J. McCloskey urged Israel, Egypt and Jordan to start peace talks promptly through United Nations mediator Gunnar V. Jarring.

The United States, McCloskey said, was taking up with Egypt and the Soviet Union the original Israeli charge and two later charges of smaller-scale violations, which remain under study here.

Yesterday's call at the Soviet Foreign Ministry by an American Embassy official was the first such discussion of the charges.

McCloskey also said the United States had given Israel new, specific assurances of its intent to offset any change in the balance of power.

Los Angeles Times staff writer Robert C. Toth reported that among weapons the United States is delivering to Israel is a variety of air-to-ground missiles that can be carried by Israel's American-made F-4 Phantoms and A-4 Skyhawks.

See MISSILES, A6, Col. 3

MISSILES, From A1

[Among these, Toth said, are sophisticated radar-seeking missiles that are guided by radar beams from surface-to-air missiles.]

[Toth suggested the deliveries are being made to counter Egyptian surface-to-air missiles along the Suez Canal if fighting should resume. He noted, however, that it cannot be ruled out that the weapons were promised before the American peace initiative.]

[Toth also reported that the United States is to deliver electronic counter-measure devices that, when affixed to Israeli aircraft, confuse Russian-made SAM's in flight.]

[The State Department had "no comment" when asked to confirm the report.]

Israeli Foreign Minister Abba Eban said in a television interview last Thursday that if the United States is not able to have the missiles moved back to the pre-cess-fire positions, Israel will stress its right to receive necessary defense equipment.

Yesterday's U.S. statement

did not challenge Israel's assertions that batteries of Soviet SA-2 missiles—reportedly totaling 72—were moved toward the Suez Canal the night of Aug. 7-8 when the cease-fire began.

The American-negotiated cease-fire agreement provides that neither side will make any improvement in its positions in a zone 50 kilometers (31 miles) deep on each side of the canal.

"We have concluded," the statement began, "that there was forward deployment of surface-to-air missiles into and within the zone west of the Suez Canal around the time the cease-fire went into effect. There is some evidence that this was continued beyond the cease-fire deadline, although our evidence of this is not conclusive."

The phrase "some evidence," officials said, referred mostly to the photographs and radio tapes provided by the Israelis.

The cease-fire began in darkness, at 1 a.m. Cairo time Aug. 8, and photo coverage of the standstill zone by American U-2 aircraft patrolling the

Israeli-held side of the canal did not begin until at least 12 hours later.

McCloskey said the United States had not made any judgment on the Aug. 13 and Aug. 16 Israeli complaints but was keeping in touch through diplomatic channels. "We do not now anticipate making further public statements on this matter," he said.

State Department officials privately have expressed annoyance at Israel's public airing of its charges within two days of its first complaint here.

"It would be our hope," McCloskey said, "that when issues like this arise that we communicate with one another through diplomatic channels where it is possible to apply a little bit more quiet diplomacy."

The substance of the U.S. conclusions had been given Tuesday to Israeli Ambassador Yitzhak Rabin, who flew home for consultations and an interrupted vacation. Walworth Barbour, the U.S. Am-

bassador in Tel Aviv, also called on Eban yesterday to discuss the statement before it was issued here.

Egypt's minister in Washington, Dr. Ashraf Ghorbal, was called to the State Department at noon for a meeting with Assistant Secretary of State Joseph J. Sisco. Afterward he told reporters Sisco had not asked that Egypt remove any missiles.

Sisco also met with Jordan's Ambassador here, Abdul Hamid Sharaf, who requested the meeting on his return from Amman.

Jarring's efforts to begin substantive talks at the U.N. have been delayed by disagreement over the level at which the three countries will be represented.

Israel and reportedly Jarring

favor his meeting with foreign ministers, while Egypt and Jordan have designated their U.N. ambassadors to represent them.

"The main thing now," the U.S. statement concluded, "is to concentrate all efforts on getting discussions going under Ambassador Jarring's auspices. The United States believes that these talks should begin promptly."

ISRAELIS DISPLAY PHOTOS AS PROOF OF U.A.R. BUILD-UP

Say Some Missiles Are Only
11 Miles From Suez Canal,
in Violation of Truce

PERIL TO TROOPS SEEN

Statement by U.S., Noting
Egyptian Moves, Is Given
a Guarded Welcome

By PETER GROSE
Special to The New York Times

TEL AVIV, Aug. 19—Israel made public tonight photographs of what was described as an Egyptian missile build-up on the western bank of the Suez Canal that started a few hours before the Middle Eastern cease-fire and military standstill.

A senior Israeli Army staff officer said SAM-2 missiles were now as close as 11 miles from the canal, with a range extending in some places 12½ miles across the canal over the Israeli-controlled Sinai Peninsula. The standstill area under the 90-day cease-fire extends 32 miles on each side of the canal.

He said that all the newly deployed surface-to-air missiles were Egyptian-controlled and that Soviet-manned Sam-3 missiles had not been moved closer than 22 miles from the canal.

Situation Termed Serious

The Israeli officer said that the new situation, which has arisen since the cease-fire became effective on Aug. 7 was "not catastrophic, but very serious for us."

As he was speaking here, the Foreign Ministry in Jerusalem gave a guarded welcome to the State Department's statement in Washington today confirming a movement of anti-aircraft missiles toward

the canal at about the time the cease-fire went into effect. "We are certain of the precision and seriousness of our information," the Foreign Ministry spokesman said.

With the day's statements from Washington and Jerusalem, some of the testiness that for several days clouded relations between Israel and the United States seemed on the way to being dissipated.

Won't Slow Peace Efforts

Both Premier Golda Meir and Foreign Minister Abba Eban have made it clear that Israel will not delay diplomatic efforts toward a settlement with the United Arab Republic because of any violations of the cease-fire. But they have also insisted that they will not drop the charges just because the United States is angered by them.

The United States statement did not fully confirm all the Israeli charges of violations by Cairo but the Foreign Ministry spokesman emphasized Israel's interest in the United States' action in raising the Israeli complaints with the Soviet Union.

Israeli officials, including Mr. Eban, have expressed annoyance at the reluctance of the United States to endorse or even to take seriously the Israeli charges of a Soviet-Egyptian build-up in violation of the truce, which were first made publicly on Aug. 13.

For Israel, a missile build-up would make front-line troops at the Suez Canal more vulnerable than ever. For the United States, any violations seem to be regarded as a technical matter, threatening only to undermine the American-initiated peace-making effort before the negotiations can be opened.

Different Perceptions Noted

This difference in perception, in itself, was viewed as an explanation of two Governments differing interpretations of raw intelligence data even without the imprecision of photo and electronic reconnaissance.

The Israeli officer, explaining the photographs of missile sites said to have been taken before and after the cease-fire, declared that most of the intelligence data available to Israeli officials had been submitted to the United States.

He acknowledged that the dates and hours on which Israel says the pictures were taken could not be proved—but on that point he asked that the past record of Israeli intelligence be taken into account. In any case, the issue is not whether Israeli intelligence or

American intelligence is more accurate, but whether Egypt and the Soviet Union have embarked on a military build-up for renewing combat after the 90-day cease-fire from a position far stronger than they were in two weeks ago.

The Israeli officers distributed photographs of four locations in Egypt, the first set

taken, he said, between 3:30 P.M. and 3:40 P.M. on Aug. 7, before the midnight cease-fire. The second set of the same location, he said, was taken on Aug. 13 and Aug. 16, with the cease-fire in force. He did not explain how the photographs had been taken.

More than a dozen SAM-2 missile batteries had been advanced toward the canal and made operational in the week-end of Aug. 7 to 9, he said. With the missiles quickly emplaced, he added, construction work on bunkers and facilities around the launching pads continued until the last few days.

One clause in the cease-fire and standstill agreement bars any deployment of new weapons within the truce zone.

The officer confirmed that initial Israeli complaints had said that the more advanced Soviet SAM-3 missiles had been moved forward as well as the SAM-2's. This information was based on the appearance of the launching site, he said, but subsequently only SAM-2 missiles had

actually been put into place. "Maybe the Russians did not want to come inside the zone," he added.

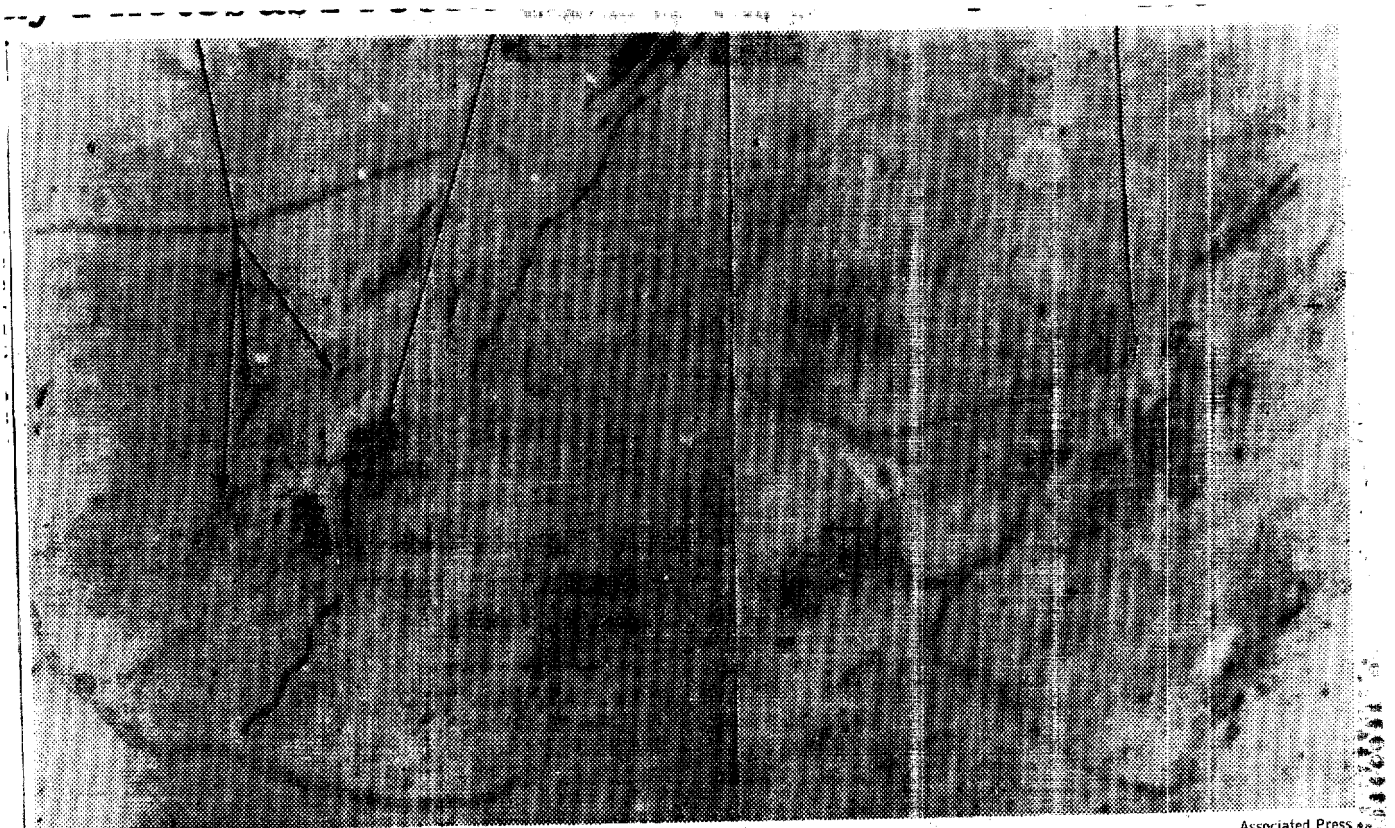
Before the latest movement, he said, there were no live missiles within 19 miles of the canal.

Now the entire central sector of the canal, from Ismailia to eight or nine miles of Suez, at the southern end, is said to be effectively covered by the

Soviet-designed air-defense system.

This makes it "difficult but not impossible," the Israeli officer said, for Israeli aircraft to operate over the canal.

Until the time of the cease-fire Israel retained total air superiority over the canal. This is regarded as Israel's most effective defense against any attempt by the Egyptians to cross the canal in force.



Associated Press

Israeli Army says photo at left, taken before the cease-fire, shows primary construction for a SAM-2 launching site about 16 miles west of the canal. The photo at right, Israel charges, shows completed site six days after cease-fire.

WASHINGTON POST

DATE 18/06/70

PAGE 1

U.S. Uncovers No Proof Yet

By A. D. Horne

Washington Post Staff Writer

The United States has been unable to find clear evidence of a substantial violation of the Suez Canal standstill cease-fire agreement as charged by Israel, American officials said yesterday.

No public conclusion was announced yesterday on the charges that Soviet SA-2 and SA-3 antiaircraft missiles were moved forward within Egypt's 31-mile-deep standstill zone after 1 a.m. Cairo time the night the cease-fire began.

The State Department said it had nothing to add yet to Defense Secretary Melvin R. Laird's comment in a television interview Sunday that "it is impossible by the means of verification which we had available . . . to prove or disprove on a very firm basis exactly what took place" in the first hours of the cease-fire Aug. 8.

The Laird comments, officials said yesterday, were meant not as a conclusion but as a holding position. There was some pain here over the way Israeli Foreign Minister Abba Eban, at his press conference in Jerusalem yesterday, reacted to Laird by adding new charges of violations discovered last weekend.

Washington's top priority remains to surmount the current crisis over the Israeli charges and start substantive peace talks under United Nations mediator Gunnar V. Jarring. "We hope that would be soon," State Department spokesman Robert J. McCloskey said yesterday.

Israel, on the other hand, is seen here as undergoing a serious crisis of confidence over the U.S. failure to back its charges immediately.

Washington, torn between wanting to get on with the talks and the need to hear out the Israelis, has been putting off its response.

MISSILE, From A1

There is no doubt here that the Soviets and Egyptians were engaged in a large effort to push their air defense system forward toward the canal when the cease-fire agreement was reached the afternoon of Aug. 7. The problem here remains the difficulty of proving that this forward movement spilled over past 1 a.m. the next morning, the time the standstill took effect.

There were reports from Israel yesterday that Defense Minister Moshe Dayan, aware of the Egyptian plans to move missiles forward in the last hours before the cease-fire, had insisted on an earlier starting time than the United States proposed—24 hours earlier, by one account.

One reason the United States has been unable to confirm the Israeli charges, it was said, was that its U-2 photo-reconnaissance planes did not begin flying over the Israeli-held east bank of the canal until Aug. 8. There was a lack of pre-truce photographs against which to match the new U.S. and Israeli-supplied photos, and the American and Israeli data do not coincide in times, types of equipment and precise locations, officials said.

Photographs taken from orbiting satellites, sources here said, are not available until they are collected days later, and satellites may not cover the Suez area daily.

Israel, one official said, is providing vast amounts of

photographic and electronic data, and American experts have gone over thousands of items since the cease-fire began.

Some of the charges of additional violations since the first hours of the cease-fire are said here to involve Israeli-American differences over definitions, such as whether the movement of equipment within a single SAM site is a violation of the standstill. Others are seen here to represent normal maintenance activities.

As of yesterday, officials said, the United States had not yet found any major relocation of SAMs forward during the cease-fire period. And, finding nothing substantial, it has made no move to discuss the charges with the Soviet Union.

Mid East

U.S. SAYS IT FINDS NO MAJOR BREACH OF TRUCE BY U.A.R.

Urges Israelis to Proceed
With Peace Negotiations
Without Further Delay

SISCO AND RABIN MEET

State Department Defers
Statement Until Today—
Soviet Assails Charges

By HEDRICK SMITH
Special to The New York Times

WASHINGTON, Aug. 18—The United States informed Israel today that it could not conclude that there had been a serious enough Egyptian violation of the Middle East cease-fire to warrant any further delay in Arab-Israeli negotiations, and urged Israel to proceed with the talks, officials reported.

The American position was conveyed by Joseph J. Sisco, Assistant Secretary of State for Near Eastern and Southern Asian Affairs, to the Israeli Ambassador, Itzak Rabin. After their 30-minute meeting at the State Department this morning, Mr. Rabin left for Israel.

The United States also relayed its assessment of the Israeli charges that the Egyptians had violated the truce by moving missile batteries forward into the 32-mile-wide cease-fire zone, to the Israeli Government through Walworth Barbour, the American Ambassador to Israel.

[In Moscow, the Soviet Government newspaper Izvestia termed the Israeli charges fabrications and said that even the United States had disavowed them. Page 5.]

U. S. Statement Deferred

The State Department, which originally planned to issue a statement late today, deferred

it until tomorrow to be sure that Mr. Barbour had adequate time to meet with Foreign Minister Abba Eban.

Mr. Sisco was reported not to have taken direct issue with Israeli charges of Egyptian violations. The United States was said to have acknowledged to the Israelis that there might have been some technical violation of the truce, though this was difficult to determine conclusively. However, it was said to have differed with the Israeli interpretation, repeated publicly by Ambassador Rabin today, that the Egyptians had drastically altered the strategic balance along the Suez Canal since the 90-day cease fire began Aug. 7.

The emphasis of the American position, officials said, was

to treat any movements on the Egyptian side of the canal as a minor infraction at most and to try to get the stalled Arab-Israeli negotiations started quickly through Dr. Gunnar V. Jarring of Sweden, the United Nations special representative for the Middle East.

Israelis Are Dissatisfied

Ambassador Rabin and other Israeli officials were known to be dissatisfied with the American response. Israel has demanded both publicly and privately that the United States, as sponsor of the cease-fire, see that the situation is rectified by insisting on the withdrawal of any new missiles introduced into the standstill zone since the truce began.

Ambassador Rabin, talking with newsmen at the State Department, asserted that "any negotiation should be started based on the military situation that existed prior to the cease-fire."

"We believe that what the Egyptians have tried to do," he said, "is create a new military situation which would allow them—at least they think so—to negotiate from a standpoint of strength."

Israeli sources said, however, that it would take a thorough review by the Israeli Government to determine whether to proceed promptly with the talks as the United States urged.

No Formal Reply

Israel has indicated to Dr. Jarring, without giving a formal reply, that it is willing to have the discussions take place in New York, it was hoped at the foreign ministers' level, as Dr. Jarring proposed. But the United Arab Republic and Jordan are reported holding firm on their preference for starting the talks at the ambassadorial level, perhaps shifting to foreign ministers when the higher-ranking officials gather at the United Nations General Assembly in mid-September.

The American effort was to shift away from the continuing dispute with Israel over the question of Egyptian violations, though officials conceded that there were still serious disagreements on what had happened on the ground and when.

But in an attempt to persuade Israel to tone down the public controversy and to move into talks, Mr. Sisco was understood to have backed away from the blunt language of Secretary of Defense Melvin R. Laird.

On Sunday, Mr. Laird said that it was impossible to determine precisely what had happened in the 12 hours before and after the cease-fire began—the period when Israel says the violations started. Mr. Laird asserted that there had been no violation since the early hours of the cease-fire and, if the issue were in doubt, he said, American intelligence was better than Israeli intelligence.

21 Batteries Involved

Israeli officials assert that 21 Sam-2 missile batteries with six missiles to a battery—some real and some dummy missiles—were moved forward into the cease-fire zone on the night of Aug. 7-8, before and after the cease-fire began. They said that in subsequent days two more batteries had been moved into the zone and several other sites were prepared for deployment of missiles.

Ambassador Rabin said today that the forward movement of Egyptian missiles had "drastically charged the strategic balance and created a situation so that if there would be a resumption of the war against Israel, the Egyptians and their masters will be in a better shape to interfere with the Israeli air force activity and to

help protect any Egyptian planes raiding Israeli positions on the eastern side of the Suez Canal.

Another Charge Reported

JERUSALEM, Aug. 18 (Reuters) — Highly placed sources said here today that Egyptian forces in the cease-fire zone had been reinforced in yet another violation of the cease-fire.

Yesterday, Foreign Minister Eban accused the United Arab Republic of expanding its missile network near the Suez Canal — just 24 hours after Secretary Laird said that two earlier Israeli charges could be neither proved nor disproved by the United States.

Cairo Is Still Silent

Special to The New York Times

CAIRO, Aug. 18—The United Arab Republic maintained official silence today on continuing Israeli accusations of violations of a military standstill in the Suez Canal. The Government has declared that it will not comment on the Israeli charges.